notice from his somewhat longer account in the *Vierteljahrsschrift der Ast. Gesell.*]

DIDRIK MAGNUS AXEL MÖLLER, the son of a civil officer in the province of Schonen, in South Sweden, was born 1830 February 16. He shewed mathematical ability of a high order almost from infancy, and entered the Lund University at an exceptionally early age. On passing his examination in 1853 he was immediately nominated Docent, in 1855 he was made an Observer, in 1861 Extraordinary Professor, and in 1863 Ordinary Professor. His predecessor in the chair was much occupied with public matters. Möller had practically undertaken the professorial work from the time he was appointed Docent, with the exception of a period in the years 1858–59, during which he travelled in mid-Europe with the object of adding to his scientific knowledge, a short time spent in visiting Pulkowa in 1861, and a few weeks in the summer of 1860, when he took part in the solar eclipse expedition to Spain.

In the years which followed Möller was on several commissions for the remodelling of the higher grade educational institutions of Sweden. His interest in all educational matters was very keen, and his opinion always commanded the greatest respect. For a long time he was Rector of his University, and would have held this office till his death but for his own wishes, which caused his resignation in 1895. Long after the conclusion of his duties as teacher he continued to superintend the final examinations of the students. His ability further shewed itself in various matters of administration, where his sound common sense and financial knowledge were of the greatest value. His fine constitution resisted the hardships and fatigues of a hard-working observer's life for many years ; but in the spring of 1896, during a journey in North Sweden, he caught a severe cold. This left behind an affection of the heart which put a sudden end to his busy life on 1896 October 25.

Möller's scientific work began in 1853 with a determination of the longitude of Lund, after which he undertook the determination of the orbit of Comet 1852 III. Then the peculiarities of the orbit of Faye's Comet absorbed his attention ; from 1860 onwards he undertook a long series of investigations on this subject, and by extraordinary care and completeness in his work he finally succeeded in determining the orbit with extreme precision, and gave ephemerides for the returns in 1865, 1873, and 1880–81 with a success which is well known. From the first this work attracted the notice of the astronomical world, and practical recognitions of its value came from various quarters. In his honour the Comet has been named Faye-Möller ; and he was awarded the Gold Medal of this Society in 1881. In presenting the medal, the President, Mr. J. R. Hind, who was well qualified to speak with authority on the occasion, reminded the Society that the class of computation involved in such investigations is

of a high order, and "does not admit, as is often the case with heavy masses of astronomical calculations, of being set out for the ordinary computer. Considerable mathematical knowledge, and knowledge of refined methods, and of their adaptability to particular cases, is absolutely essential; and Professor Möller's success has proved that he possesses this knowledge in an eminent degree."

Another member of our system which occupied Professor Möller's attention was the minor planet *Pandora*, the perturbations of which he calculated by Hansen's method. Many minor investigations appear in the publications of the Lund University, and it is to be remembered that the observatory itself wherein these observations were made is due to Möller. At the time of his appointment as Professor the Lund University only possessed a few very ordinary astronomical instruments; but as a result of his strong and urgent representations the University built a new observatory and equipped it very completely. In this Möller worked zealously for many years, making numerous observations, especially of planets. He was an indefatigable worker. Whatever he undertook he carried through to the end with all his energies. His loss will be severely felt by all who knew him and had felt the influence of his strong and upright character.

[For this notice the Council is indebted to Dr. Folke Engström.]

Hubert Anson Newton was born on 1830 March 19, at Sherburne, in the central part of New York State, the fifth son of a family of seven sons and four daughters, children of William and Lois Butler Newton. Both parents, who traced back an ancestry to the first settlers of Connecticut, had migrated westwards and settled on a large farm which yet remains in the family. William Newton was a man of considerable enterprise, and undertook the construction of the Buffalo section of the Erie Canal; his wife was famed for her mathematical powers among her near acquaintance, so that the natal gifts to this one of their children are clearly manifest.

Young Newton fitted for college at the schools of Sherburne, giving early promise of mathematical taste. He entered Yale at the early age of sixteen, in the class graduating in 1850. In the college records he appears as a speaker at the junior exhibition of his class, with "India" as his theme, and in the graduation list he won an "oration" stand, though his name is not on the list of commencement speakers. More significant of his gift was the winning of the first prize for the solution of mathematical problems.

After graduation he pursued his studies; was appointed tutor at Yale in 1852, taking full charge of the department of mathematics during the illness of the senior professor at that time; and in 1855 he was elected full professor at the early age of twenty-